

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 29-31, and 33-35 are pending in this application. In the Final Office Action mailed August 13, 2007 ("OA"), the Examiner rejected all pending claims. With this response, Applicants amend claims 1, 7, 29, and 33 to further prosecution. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration based on the following remarks. In addition, Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce to the Examiner's characterization of the claims, even if those characterizations are not addressed herein.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Mai for participating in the Examiner Interview on September 12, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-10, 29-31, and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. While not agreeing with the rejection, to further prosecution, Applicants amend claims 1, 29, and 33 and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. If further amendments are deemed necessary by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-2, 4-10, 29-31, and 33-35 in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 1, 7, 29, and 33 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.


Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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